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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A response to the Final Office Action was filed on January 22, 2008, and an Advisory Action was issued on February 11, 2008. The present submission represents a further response to the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith to reopen prosecution of the application before the Examiner.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful comments provided on page 2 of the Advisory Action.

As noted by the Examiner, the Applicants' arguments filed on January 22, 2008 stated, in part, that a product of a regulated voltage and an unregulated current, of the form disclosed in United States Patent No. 5,952,733 (Johnston) is a power that is not regulated. Although the regulation of voltage regulates a component of power, the fact remains that the product of a regulated voltage and the unregulated current in Johnston which is neither sensed nor regulated, is still unregulated power. The current in Johnston is free to vary, and thus the resultant power from a regulated voltage and the unregulated and unmonitored current is also free to vary with the current, and accordingly is not regulated.

The Examiner is correct in stating that regulated power is not limited to the product of regulated current and regulated voltage. Indeed, the Applicants have disclosed not only regulated current sources as power sources, but also power sources constituted by voltage sources controlled in dependence upon current sensing, for example. This disclosure is provided at least at page 22, lines 9 to 16 of the present specification as originally filed.

It is to be appreciated that the Applicants' previous arguments in response to the Final Office Action were not asserting that both a regulated voltage and a regulated current are always required to regulate power. In claim 1, for example, the Applicants recite supplying a regulated current or a regulated power responsive to sensed power supply voltage. In the context of

regulated current, voltage is sensed and current is regulated. Thus, regulated power is provided by sensing voltage and regulating current. Power regulation can also be achieved as recited in the claim, by sensing voltage and regulating power.

Thus, the Examiner is correct in stating that regulated power is not limited to the product of regulated current and regulated voltage.

Johnston, however, senses and regulates only voltage. This was discussed in the previous response to the Final Office Action, and the previous arguments are appended below for completeness. Sensing and regulation of voltage alone cannot regulate power. Currents will still vary in the Johnston system, and thus power will also vary.

In light of this fundamental difference between the claims and the cited reference, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections in the Final Office Action are respectfully requested.

The Applicants further note the Examiner's suggestion to amend the independent claims to recite only a regulated current or to recite a regulated power of a regulated current and a regulated voltage.

From this suggestion, it is apparent that the Examiner is correctly interpreting current regulation as being patentable over Johnston. Since independent claim 9 already recites sensing voltage and regulating currents supplied by power sources in dependence upon the sensed voltage, the Applicants believe that independent claim 9 is already in accordance with one of the Examiner's suggestions, and therefore is allowable. Claims 10, 11, 13, and 14 depend from claim 9 and are also allowable.

As discussed in detail above and in previous arguments, the recitation of supplying a regulated current or a regulated power responsive to sensed power supply voltage patentably distinguishes independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 to 7 over Johnston, and the recitation of sensing a power supply voltage for regulating power supplied from a plurality of power sources patentably distinguishes claim 15 and its dependent claims 16 and 19 over the cited reference.

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The other references cited in the Final Office Action fail to cure the defects of Johnston.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all claim rejections are respectfully requested. The Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance, and early action to this end is earnestly solicited. In the event that any further issues remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so as to most expediently resolve such issues.

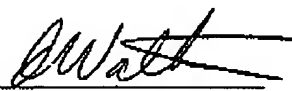
For the Examiner's convenience and consideration, the previous response to the Final Office Action is appended hereto.

The Applicants look forward to early and favourable consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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DMW/wfs